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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,781	12/04/2001	Barbara Bennett	232801-00186-1	7953
7590	11/20/2003		EXAMINER	
Arnold B. Silverman, Esquire Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC 44th Floor 600 Grant Street Pittsburgh, PA 15219			HENDRICKSON, STUART L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1754	
DATE MAILED: 11/20/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.	004181	Applicant(s)	Bennett
Examiner	Verbi Jackson	Group Art Unit	7154

**—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—**

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/18/02
- This action is FINAL.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) 1-2 is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 22, 23, 25-33, 35 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) 24, 34 is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement

### Application Papers

- The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is  approved  disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).
- All  Some\*  None of the:
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received  
in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

### Attachment(s)

- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_  Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892  Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948  Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 1754

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 22, 23, 25-33 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amagi et al. 3917806.

Amagi teaches in columns 4 and 8 forming small spherical pitch particles and drying them (ie, forming 'powder'), followed by air infusibilization for 2 hours and carbonization in nitrogen. This differs in not exemplifying the claimed carbonization temperature, however a carbonization at 600 degrees is taught as sufficient. Using 600 degrees is thus an obvious expedient to perform carbonization without utilizing excessive energy to heat. Various sources of carbon are taught, as is hot air which is deemed to contain 'steam' (claim 31) by virtue of the moisture in air.

Claims 27 and 28 are duplicates.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Hendrickson at telephone number (703) 308-2539.



Stuart Hendrickson  
examiner Art Unit 1754